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VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 2nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ELARABY (Egypt)

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The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: I should like to apologize for the delay in beginning the meeting; I should explain that it had to do with the consultations that have been going on for several weeks now to agree on the election of the Vice-Chairman and the Rapporteur.

It gives me great pleasure and honour to extend, on behalf of all the members of the Committee and on my own behalf, our sincerest congratulations to the Governments and peoples of the new Members of the United Nations, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Slovenia, Tajikstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. We warmly welcome those delegations among us, and look forward to working closely with them in the common task of promoting the noble aims and ideals enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

I thank you all most warmly for the confidence that you have placed in me. I shall do my utmost to conduct the work of the First Committee in a manner which will earn your approval and enhance the effectiveness of the work of the First Committee.

Allow me, further, to express my sincere appreciation for the very kind and generous words offered by Mr. Wlosowicz, Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations, when he nominated me at the first meeting of the Committee. I request him to kindly convey, on behalf of all members of the Committee, as well as on my own behalf, our congratulations to Ambassador Robert Mroziewicz on his appointment as the Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland and for the exemplary manner in which the Ambassador conducted the deliberations of this Committee at its forty-sixth session. I assure you that it will be very difficult to follow in the steps of our last Chairman.

(The Chairman)

Recognizing that the tasks assigned to the First Committee are of a complex nature, I shall count on your complete and invaluable cooperation in dealing with them. I, for my part, will always be available to assist delegations in the work of the Committee. It is gratifying to know that I can also count on the most valuable experience, competence and profound knowledge of Mr. Petrovsky, the Under-Secretary-General, with whom we have worked together for many years; the Acting Director of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Davinic; and the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Kheradi and his colleagues in the Secretariat, who will contribute greatly, I am sure, to the success of our work. I am certain that the Committee will benefit from their experience, and we look forward to their support in dealing with the many pressing issues confronting us.

ELECTION OF THE VICE-CHAIRMEN AND THE RAPPORTEUR

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to recall the decision taken by the General Assembly at its 1935th meeting, held on 22 September 1971, concerning the procedure for the election of officers of the Main Committees of the General Assembly. In accordance with that decision, the nominations of candidates should be limited to one statement for each candidate, after which the Committee should immediately proceed to the election. The First Committee will follow that procedure today.

Mr. ALLAREY (Philippines): Allow me to congratulate you, Sir, on your recent election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. The formal congratulations of the Philippine delegation will be extended to you at an appropriate time in the course of the Committee's deliberations.

I wish also to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Secretariat for their valuable assistance, and to assure them of my delegation's continued cooperation.

On behalf of the Philippines I have the pleasure of nominating Mr. Pasi Patokallio, Minister Counsellor of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York, for the post of Vice-Chairman of the First Committee. Mr. Patokallio joined the Finnish foreign service in 1974. He held various positions in his country's Foreign Ministry from 1974 to 1978, and in its embassies in Washington, D.C., and Tokyo from 1978 to 1983. In 1983 he was designated desk officer for Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) matters in the Foreign Ministry, a position he held until 1986. Thereafter he was posted to the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in Geneva until 1988, at which time he was named observer to the Conference on Disarmament. In 1989 he was assigned to the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations in New York, where he first served

(Mr. Allarey, Philippines)

as Counsellor and member of the delegation to the Security Council, then as Minister-Counsellor for Political Affairs, his present position.

I wish also to note that Mr. Patokallio served as a member of the Finnish delegation to various CSCE meetings, the third special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Amendment Conference for the partial test-ban Treaty, substantive sessions of the Disarmament Commission, and the General Assembly. He became his country's Deputy Head of Delegation to the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the biological-weapons Convention in 1991 and to the Second Review Conference on the environmental modification Convention in 1992. He was Head of Delegation to substantive sessions of the Disarmament Commission from 1990 to 1992.

It is my delegation's view that Mr. Patokallio's extensive experience in multilateral diplomacy, particularly in the field of international security and disarmament, will serve this Committee well in its work.

I therefore commend to the Committee his nomination as a Vice-Chairman of the First Committee at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of the Philippines for his statement nominating Mr. Pasi Patokallio of Finland for the post of Vice-Chairman. Through him I wish to convey to Ambassador Sedfry A. Ordonez the Committee's appreciation for his invaluable contribution to the work of the Committee in his capacity as Vice-Chairman during last year's session.

There being no other nominations, I shall take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and in keeping with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the vote by secret ballot and

(The Chairman)

to declare Mr. Pasi Patokallio elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Pasi Patokallio (Finland) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. GUVEN (Turkey): I should like to extend to you, Sir, my delegation's most sincere congratulations on your election to the chairmanship of the Committee. We are confident that this year the First Committee will benefit greatly from your diplomatic skill, wisdom and experience.

In the absence of Mr. Ahmet Nazif Alpman, who served as Vice-Chairman last year, I have the honour and the pleasure of nominating Mr. Dae Won Suh of the Republic of Korea as Vice-Chairman of the First Committee at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly.

Mr. Dae Won Suh has been Minister at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations since 1990. He graduated from Seoul National University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1973 with a major in international relations. From 1989 to 1990 he was a Fellow at the Center for International Affairs at Harvard University. Since 1973 he has held various positions within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and has served at the embassies of the Republic of Korea at Washington and at Riyadh. He has been awarded the Order of Service Merit, Red Stripe.

I commend this nomination to the First Committee. I am confident that, if he is elected as Vice-Chairman, Mr. Dae Won Suh will certainly discharge most ably the tasks assigned to him.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Turkey for his statement nominating Mr. Dae Won Suh of the Republic of Korea for the post of Vice-Chairman. I request him to communicate to Mr. Ahmet Nazif Alpman the

(The Chairman)

Committee's appreciation for his valuable contribution to the work of the Committee in his capacity as Vice-Chairman during last year's session.

There being no other nominations, I shall take it that, in accordance with rule 103 of the rules of procedure and in keeping with established practice, the Committee wishes to dispense with the vote by secret ballot and to declare Mr. Dae Won Suh elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Dae Won Suh (Republic of Korea) was elected Vice-Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I express to the two Vice-Chairmen my warmest congratulations on the distinction that has been conferred upon them, and assure them of my utmost support and cooperation in our joint discharge of the responsibilities incumbent upon us.

Mr. PIRIZ BALLON (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): I am speaking on behalf of the States of the Latin American and Caribbean Group, of which my delegation has the honour to be the current Chairman, in connection with the election of Committee officers.

(Mr. Piriz Ballon, Uruguay)

First of all, however, I should like to tell you, Sir, how very pleased we are to see you chairing this very important Committee. In the course of the session, my delegation will have an opportunity to congratulate you in more formal terms, but as the representative of Uruguay, and as one of your colleagues and friends, I did want to begin this brief statement with those words.

I should like to recall that the Latin American and Caribbean Group had endorsed the candidacy of Ambassador Homero Hernandez of the Dominican Republic as a Vice-Chairman of this Committee because of his high qualifications and the vast experience in disarmament affairs he has gained in the course of his life as a diplomat. Ambassador Hernandez has been the representative of the Dominican Republic in this Committee for the past five years, and he has made an outstanding contribution to all its debates. He has participated in United Nations conferences and seminars on disarmament and has published articles on that subject in Disarmament: A Periodic Review by the United Nations. His book, Latin America in Search of Its Identity, for which Ambassador Hernandez was given the first international Galo Plaza award, dedicates an entire chapter to the subject of disarmament.

The Latin American and Caribbean Group had endorsed the candidature of Ambassador Hernandez, convinced as it was that he would have been an excellent Vice-Chairman and an outstanding representative of our region as an officer of this Committee. None the less, I should like to announce that at the explicit request of Ambassador Hernandez himself, and in order to preserve the traditional consensus characteristic of the work of the First Committee, the Latin American and Caribbean Group is officially withdrawing his candidature.

(Mr. Piriz Ballon, Uruguay)

I should like to point out that this gesture by Ambassador Hernandez says much about his diplomatic sensitivity and his human qualities, since he has made this choice with a view to preserving the Committee's traditional consensus.

The CHAIRMAN: I am grateful for the position taken by the Latin American and Caribbean Group to facilitate the election of the two Vice-Chairmen.

On my own behalf, I should like to ensure the Ambassador of Uruguay that since he said so many kind words about my election as Chairman of the First Committee I intend to come to the Second Committee to reciprocate and to express my sincere congratulations to Ambassador Piriz Ballon on his election to head that very important Committee.

The Committee will now proceed to the election of the Rapporteur.

Mr. SADER (Uruguay) (interpretation from Spanish): First, may I reiterate to you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the delegation of Uruguay, our most cordial congratulations on your election to preside over the First Committee. We are fully convinced that your experience and well-known diplomatic qualifications will ensure the success of the Committee's work. I should also like to congratulate the two Vice-Chairmen and express our complete readiness to cooperate with them.

Since I had the honour of being the Rapporteur of the First Committee during its forty-sixth session, it is now my honour and pleasure today to submit the candidature of Mr. Jerzy Zaleski of Poland as Rapporteur of the First Committee at its forty-seventh session. Mr. Zaleski is a true expert in disarmament and international security. A quick glance at his past record suffices to convince us of this. He has worked on the United Nations

(Mr. Sader, Uruguay)

disarmament fellowship programme and has served as his country's ambassador to Addis Ababa. He has also worked in the Department of International Affairs of his country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs as a disarmament expert. From 1982 to 1987 he was a member of the United Nations Secretariat in the Department for Disarmament Affairs and served in that capacity in the First Committee, the Disarmament Commission and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean and at review conferences on a number of multilateral disarmament treaties. In 1988, he returned to the diplomatic service of his country as an adviser in the Ministry, responsible, among other things, for disarmament and security affairs including the maintenance of international peace and security. Having served with him, I can personally attest to his abilities and his dedication. My delegation is convinced that in him we have an excellent candidate for the post to which he is being nominated.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Uruguay, who has just nominated Mr. Zaleski of Poland for the office of Rapporteur. I am certain that I express the sentiments of all members of the Committee when I convey our gratitude to Mr. Sader for the task he so ably performed during last year's session.

You have just heard the representative of Uruguay nominate Mr. Zaleski of Poland for the office of Rapporteur. As there are no other nominations, I take it that the Committee wishes to follow the same procedure and dispense with the secret ballot to declare Mr. Zaleski elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

Mr. Jerzy Zaleski (Poland) was elected Rapporteur of the First Committee by acclamation.

The CHAIRMAN: I wish to express my cordial congratulations to the representative of Poland upon his election as Rapporteur of the First Committee, and I invite him to take the place reserved for him at the podium.

May I take this opportunity to draw the attention of members of the First Committee to rule 110 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, which reads as follows:

> "Congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous sessions - or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation - after all the officers of the Committee have been elected."

Accordingly, I shall now call upon the representative of Poland, who will speak on behalf of Mr. Robert Mroziewicz, Under-Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman of the First Committee during the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

Mr. WLOSOWICZ (Poland): Mr. Chairman, it was an honour and pleasure for me when I was able recently to propose, on behalf of the outgoing Chairman of the First Committee, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland His Excellency Mr. Robert Mroziewicz, your candidature for the chairmanship of the First Committee at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. And now I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate you on assuming that important, and at the time time highly demanding, post.

Although His Excellency Ambassador Nabil Elaraby, current Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations, is so well known to this body that he needs no introduction, I wish nevertheless to highlight some of the most important achievements in his long and widely appreciated diplomatic career, which has been closely associated with the United Nations since 1966.

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

He has represented his country in various United Nations organs and committees in both New York and Geneva and, in recognition of his knowledge and diplomatic skills he has been elected Chairman of several committees and working groups. Prior to assuming his present post in New York, he was Permanent Representative of Egypt to the Office of the United Nations at Geneva and the head of the Egyptian delegation to the Conference on Disarmament. He has also served his country in a number of other diplomatic posts, including that of Ambassador to India.

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

Ambassador Elaraby is a distinguished scholar in the field of international law. He has lectured at a number of prominent universities and academies, and he is a member of several societies of international law.

As I have already noted, during my presentation of His Excellency Ambassador Nabil Elaraby for the chairmanship of the First Committee, he has all the knowledge, experience and diplomatic skills needed to guide the work of the First Committee at this particular time, when the Organization and the world at large have embarked on the process of important transformations having a direct impact on international peace and security, various aspects of which are under consideration in this Committee.

Consequently, Mr. Chairman, we sincerely wish you all the best in discharging your responsible duties. At the same time the delegation of Poland would like to assure you of our assistance and cooperation in our efforts to conclude this session of the Committee successfully.

I should also like to congratulate Mr. Pasi Patokallio and Mr. Dae Won Suh on their elections as Vice-Chairman. I am also happy to note that my compatriot Mr. Zaleski has been elected Rapporteur of the First Committee.

May I, on behalf of His Excellency the Under-Secretary-of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Robert Mroziewicz, convey his gratitude to all members of the First Committee for their substantive contributions to the work of the Committee and their full cooperation and support, which allowed him to discharge his duties successfully. I also take this opportunity to express his sincere appreciation for the valuable assistance he received from the members of the United Nations Secretariat, in particular the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Kheradi.

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

This year the First Committee will work against the backdrop of profound and far-reaching transformations taking place in the world. With the end of the cold war, the international community is making serious efforts to define, and at the same time to lay the foundations of, a new world order based on the ideas enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

There has been a gradual change in the perception of international security. Although its military dimension still remains crucial, other, non-military, factors - economic, social and environmental - are becoming more and more important. It is encouraging to note, however, that at the beginning of the new era in international relations we are witnessing a commendable process of real reductions of military potentials both nuclear and conventional. Here I am referring in particular to the conclusion of the Open Skies Treaty, the Agreements between the United States and the four successor States of the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics relating to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty and, first of all, to the conclusion of the work of the Conference on Disarmament on the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction.

Important cuts in nuclear arms are also planned under an agreement reached last June by President George Bush and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia. That agreement, currently being translated into treaty language, would cut warheads to 3,000 in the Russian arsenal and to 3,500 in the American one - less than a third of today's level.

Furthermore there are welcome developments in the field of nuclear testing in the form of temporary moratoriums or suspensions of tests on the part of the former nuclear-weapon States.

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

These are our assets as we are about to begin the work of the First Committee. We should use them wisely, for the benefit of all of us.

Without any doubt, the main task before the Committee this year is to initiate the process of signing the Chemical Weapons Convention. The interest generated among Member States by the conclusion of the work of the Conference on Disarmament on the Convention augurs well in this regard. There are well founded reasons to believe that the appropriate resolution will be adopted by consensus after winning an unprecedented number of sponsors.

There is also a very urgent need to deal with, in the words of the Polish Minister for Foreign Affairs His Excellency Mr. Krzysztof Skubiszewski,

> "the overkill capacity still present in the arsenals, both nuclear and conventional, and with the growing danger of the spread of weapons of mass destruction and missile technology". (A/47/PV.7, p. 76)

The First Committee will also have on its agenda, as a matter of priority, the question of openness and transparency in the military sphere and the issue of transfers of conventional arms.

I would say that last year there were two distinct developments that had a direct bearing on the successful outcome of the work of the First Committee.

First, the Committee was guided in its work by the spirit of reconciliation, compromise and concerted action. Delegations took the constructive approach, which, in the majority of cases, leads to more conciliatory language in resolutions. In addition, resolutions more fully reflected the realities of the 1990s.

Secondly, there was gradual progress in the rationalization of the work of the First Committee. In an unprecedented manner, the Committee went from words to deeds. By means of terminating some issues on its agenda or spacing their consideration, as well as merging similar draft resolutions and by

(Mr. Wlosowicz, Poland)

by minimizing the introduction of new, non-pragmatic issues into the agenda, the Committee was able to cut considerably the number of submitted and consequently adopted resolutions.

Moreover, both developments led to the adoption of the greater number of resolutions without a vote. Allow me to recall at this point that last year, out of a total of 48 draft resolutions and decisions related to disarmament, two draft resolutions and one draft decision were not pressed to a vote and 26 were adopted by the Committee without a vote.

It is also worth mentioning that the proposals concerning the organization of the work of the Committee, submitted by the representatives of Canada and New Zealand are, we hope, to be implemented in a little while, thus creating favourable conditions for the more effective utilization of the time available to the First Committee.

It is my sincere hope that at this session the Committee will continue its work guided by the new spirit of responsibility in the field of disarmament and international security that evolved at the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly.

In this regard, Mr. Chairman, I pledge the full cooperation of my delegation in the work of the Committee under your able chairmanship.

The CHAIRMAN: On behalf of the elected officers, and on my own behalf, I thank the representative of Poland, Mr. Wlosowicz, for the kind words he addressed to me as well as the other members of the Committee. I also wish to express my appreciation for the pledge of support and cooperation he has extended to the Committee in the discharge of its responsibilities.

Mr. PATOKALLIO (Finland): May I begin by contravening rule 110 of the Rules of Procedure of the General Assembly and congratulating you, Sir, on your election to the position of Chairman of the Committee and assuring you that I will do my best to assist you in your important work.

I wish also to thank warmly the Ambassador of the Philippines for his kind words in nominating me for the position of Vice-Chairman.

For reasons that all members can surely appreciate, I have not prepared a long statement of acceptance for today. I thank the Committee for the confidence it has placed in me in electing me its Vice-Chairman, and I will do my best to advance its work as members' humble servant in the Bureau.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the representative of Finland, Mr. Patokallio, the Vice-Chairman, for his generous remarks addressed to me. I am sure that the Chairman and all the other members of the Bureau and the Committee can count on his active assistance and cooperation.

Mr. SUH (Republic of Korea): On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Korea, I should like to extend my sincere congratulations to you on your election to the chairmanship of the First Committee. I am confident that your leadership and diplomatic skills will contribute immensely to the success of our deliberations, and to this end, I should like to assure you of my full support as you discharge your responsibilities as Chairman.

I should like to thank the members of the First Committee for their support and confidence in my delegation and myself regarding the vice-chairmanship of this Committee. Allow me also to thank the representative of Turkey, who nominated me to the post of Vice-Chairman. As a relatively new State Member of the United Nations, the Republic of Korea considers its assumption of the vice-chairmanship as a chance to participate actively in the work of the Organization. I see the vice-chairmanship as a great privilege and honour for myself and my country, and I shall endeavour to satisfy those expectations which have preceded this session.

I look forward to working closely with the other officers of the Committee in the coming weeks, and reaffirm my commitment to contribute actively to the work of the Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank Mr. Suh, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, for his kind words, and I look forward to his active cooperation and support in the discharge of our various responsibilities. I am sure that all of the officers and members of the Committee will benefit from his close cooperation.

I now call on the representative of Poland, Mr. Zaleski, Rapporteur of the First Committee.

Mr. ZALESKI (Poland): I should like to extend my congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your well-deserved election to the chairmanship of the First Committee during the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. It is my earnest hope that the First Committee, under your able chairmanship, will meet effectively the new challenges of a world undergoing unprecedented transformations.

I also congratulate the newly-elected Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Mr. Pasi Patokallio and Mr. Dae Won Suh.

I should also like to express my gratitude to the members of the First Committee for electing me Rapporteur on the proposal of my predecessor, Mr. Pablo Emilio Sader, and I should also like to take this occasion to thank him for his kind presentation of my candidature to the post of Rapporteur.

I see my election as an honour for my country, Poland, and a recognition of the role Poland is playing in the field of disarmament. I should like to assure all members of the Committee that I shall do my utmost, under the able leadership of the Chairman of the First Committee and with the assistance of both Vice-Chairmen, to contribute to the proceedings of the Committee so that we can all, at the conclusion of our work, present the General Assembly with tangible results that can give fresh momentum to disarmament and bring the international community closer to a more secure, peaceful and stable world.

In addition, I am confident that in discharging my duties as Rapporteur, I can always count on the valuable cooperation of all the members of the Committee as well as on the highly professional assistance of the members of the Secretariat, and, first and foremost, of my good friends Mr. Prvoslav Davinic, the Director of the Office for Disarmament Affairs, and Mr. Sohrab Kheradi, the Secretary of this Committee.

The CHAIRMAN: I thank the Rapporteur, Mr. Zaleski, for his statement, and welcome his willingness to work very closely with me and with the Bureau. I am certain that I express not only my own sentiments, but also those of the two Vice-Chairmen, when I say that it is our intention to work in close cooperation with him during the current session.

ORGANIZATION OF WORK

The CHAIRMAN: At the outset, may I draw the Committee's attention to document A/C.1/47/1, containing a letter dated 18 September 1992 from the President of the General Assembly, transmitting to me the decision of the Assembly, taken at its 3rd meeting, pertaining to the allocation of items 49 to 69, 105 and 142 to the First Committee for its consideration.

Before proceeding with the proposed programme of work and timetable as contained in document A/C.1/47/2, I wish to indicate that the open-ended informal meeting of the First Committee on 6 October 1992 and the extensive consultations I undertook with individual delegations, assisted by the Secretary of the First Committee, Mr. Kheradi, greatly facilitated the reaching of an agreement, albeit on an ad-referendum basis, on this work programme and timetable.

Allow me to provide some preliminary explanations before furnishing a fuller account of the programme of work and timetable that is being proposed to you.

You may recall that, according to established practice, the First Committee commences its substantive work only after the conclusion of the general debate in the plenary meeting of the Assembly. Furthermore, the

(The Chairman)

President of the General Assembly has appealed to the Chairmen of the Main Committees to conclude the work of the Committees by Friday, 27 November 1992, in order to enable the plenary meeting of the General Assembly to consider the reports of the Main Committees during the early part of December. Accordingly, as I mentioned also at the informal consultations, we should organize our programme in such a way as to conclude the work of the First Committee by 25 November at the latest. I do hope that you will all commit yourselves to meeting this target date.

These parameters leave the Committee with a period extending from Monday, 12 October, to Wednesday, 25 November, giving us a total of 33 working days in which the Committee could hold a maximum of 66 meetings, provided that the requisite conference services are available. Last year, the First Committee held a total of 57 meetings. Therefore I believe that if we make a genuine and concerted effort to utilize fully the resources available to us in as effective a manner as possible and emulate the efficient manner in which we tackled the work last year, we can accomplish our task without undue difficulty.

I hope that, taking into account all questions related to the time element involved and the financial exigencies of the Organization, everything possible will be done to avoid the requirement of night meetings or Saturday meetings. I do hope we can avoid both, since they would defeat the very purpose of compressing the Committee's proceedings into as short a time as possible.

To recapitulate, the proposed programme of work and timetable have been prepared after taking into full account the various useful initiatives that have been forthcoming on the question of further rationalisation of the work

(The Chairman)

of the First Committee, including those made at the Committee's session last year and at the informal meeting on 6 October, two days ago. Accordingly, I have tried to devise a programme of work and timetable based on the following assumptions:

First, we should have a combined general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142, and 67 and 69, with a total of 26 meetings being allocated for that purpose from Monday, 12 October, to Wednesday, 28 October. At this stage, it may be pertinent to indicate that delegations will be free to make one integrated statement on all these agenda items or - and this is an important point - if they wish to make separate statements on disarmament items and international security items, they may do so.

(The Chairman)

Secondly, in view of the time-slot to be devoted to a combined consideration of draft resolutions under the disarmament and security agenda items, sufficient time should be made available for this period, namely a total of 20 meetings. This would allow delegations the opportunity, inter alia, to carry out the necessary consultations with a view to narrowing differences and broadening areas of agreement, wherever possible.

Thirdly, separate time-frames should be allocated with regard to action on disarmament and security items respectively. Accordingly, 10 meetings could be set aside for that purpose for draft resolutions on disarmament and four meetings for draft resolutions related to international security.

Fourthly, on the basis of the logic of combining disarmament and international security items, as warranted, the question of Antarctica would have to be dealt with during the latter part of the Committee's session. With respect to this item a total of six meetings, the same number of meetings as in previous years, has been allocated for general debate and consideration of and action on draft resolutions under that agenda item.

The deadline for submission of draft resolutions on all disarmament agenda items would be Wednesday, 28 October, at 6 p.m.; for international security items it would be Friday, 6 November, at 6 p.m. It is my intention to request cooperation in adhering strictly to these deadlines. Delegations in a position to do so are encouraged to submit and introduce their draft resolutions as early as possible, even during the period of the general debate. I particularly invite delegations to submit at an early date those draft resolutions that would entail programme, financial and administrative implications in order to meet the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of all draft resolutions with financial implications.

(The Chairman)

Having concluded its action on all disarmament and international security items, the First Committee would move on to consider and act on item 66, "Question of Antarctica". We would devote the period from Monday, 23 November, to Wednesday, 25 November - a total of six meetings - to a general debate on, consideration of, and action upon any draft resolutions under that item.

The deadline for submission of draft resolutions under item 66 on the question of Antarctica would be Monday, 23 November, at noon.

The deadline for closing the list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament and international security items would be Tuesday, 13 October, at 6 p.m., and the deadline for closing the list of speakers for the general debate on item 66, the question of Antarctica, would be Monday, 23 November, at noon.

Let me conclude my presentation of document A/C.1/47/2 by emphasizing that it is the intention also that flexibility should remain a primary consideration in our use of time, so that we may be able to achieve the maximum results with judicious utilization of available resources and make any adjustments that may be necessary as we go along.

Does any delegation wish to comment on the proposed programme of work?

Mr. WISNUMURTI (Indonesia): At the outset, on behalf of the non-aligned countries and of the Indonesian delegation, I should like to express my warmest congratulations to you, Sir, on your unanimous election as Chairman of the First Committee. We wish also to convey our sincere congratulations to the other members of the Bureau on their election.

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

We are fully confident, Mr. Chairman, that your extensive experience, especially in disarmament matters, and your diplomatic skill and wisdom will guide our deliberations in the Committee to a successful conclusion.

The non-aligned countries members of the First Committee met yesterday to consider the programme of work and timetable of the Committee, as proposed by yourself, Sir. As you said at the informal consultations you conducted last Tuesday, the gist of your proposal is that the general debate on all disarmament items be held concurrently with that on international security issues. We generally felt that your proposal might have an adverse impact on the consideration of disarmament items, which have always been, and which should continue to be, the main focus of the work of the First Committee.

While the non-aligned countries are aware of the interrelationship between disarmament and international security, we had difficulty in understanding the full impact and implications of the proposed method of work.

We have also taken account of the clarifications given concerning the proposal to the effect that it is intended to rationalize and streamline the work of the Committee and that it will not reduce the time allotted for the consideration of disarmament items.

At the same time we took cognizance of the time constraints the Committee is facing and the need to deal expeditiously with the organization of work in order to enable the Committee to begin its consideration of disarmament items.

Taking account of the clarification made in your introductory statement, Sir, concerning the nature and objectives of the proposed programme of work and timetable, and wishing to cooperate fully with you, the non-aligned countries are ready to go along with your proposal on the understanding that

(Mr. Wisnumurti, Indonesia)

the concurrent debate on disarmament issues and international security questions will neither undermine nor marginalize disarmament issues, which we consider to be of the utmost importance, and that delegations may wish, upon the conclusion of the work of the First Committee at this session of the General Assembly, to review the new method of work and determine whether it has indeed promoted its objectives while maintaining our focus on disarmament issues.

The CHAIRMAN: I assure the representative of Indonesia, and through him the non-aligned members of the Committee, that the proposed programme is in no way intended to affect or undermine the importance of disarmament issues, or to marginalize disarmament matters. Its only objective is, of course, to rationalize and facilitate the work of the Committee. I take note of what he said: members, of course, have every right to evaluate the programme of work at the end of the session.

Taking into consideration what the representative of Indonesia has just said, and if I hear no objection, I shall consider that the Committee adopts the programme of work and timetable contained in document A/C.1/47/2.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: I would like to refer to one other point. Members have, I am sure, observed that programmes 1, 2 and 7 of the proposed revisions of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 have also been included in the agenda of the First Committee for its review under the title "Programme planning", as indicated in document A/C.1/47/1. I would like to add that the item itself (item 105) has been allocated to the Fifth Committee.

(The Chairman)

In that connection the First Committee has been requested to transmit its views and recommendations to the Fifth Committee before 20 November 1992 so as to enable the Fifth Committee to finalize its recommendations to the General Assembly on the item. In that regard my own suggestion would be that the Committee request those members of the Committee who wish to express their views on the three programmes, namely, programmes 1, 2 and 7, to communicate such views and recommendations to me in writing by Tuesday, 17 November, so that I may forward them to the Fifth Committee as requested. Otherwise, I would inform the Chairman of the Fifth Committee that the First Committee has no recommendations to put forward in that regard. On the other hand, I am also open to suggestions concerning any alternative approaches.

Since I hear no further comments concerning this matter, I take it that the procedure I have outlined is acceptable to the Committee.

It was so decided.

The CHAIRMAN: In connection with the consideration of agenda item 61, "General and complete disarmament", I should also like to draw the attention of members of the Committee to the relevant paragraphs of the annual report of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is annexed to document A/47/374.

Finally, I intend, with your cooperation, to open the meetings of the First Committee at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., and to close the meetings at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., respectively - if, of course, there are a sufficient number of speakers. It will be my intention to convene meetings of the Committee only when there are a sufficient number of speakers. I believe that as a general rule we should have no fewer than four speakers on the list for a particular meeting so that we may use our time and resources most effectively. In this

(The Chairman)

way the resources allocated to a meeting cancelled at an appropriate time may be released for other meetings held within or outside the framework of the First Committee.

As far as the issue of the rationalization of the First Committee's work is concerned, I should like to state that, despite the complex and large number of agenda items that the Committee deals with and despite the fact that the Committee begins its substantive work only after the conclusion of the general debate in the General Assembly, the Committee has over the past years succeeded in completing its task within the allotted time and, I must add, in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

From the substantive point of view, I should like to state that worthwhile efforts have been made in the past several years and tangible results have been achieved concerning the number of draft resolutions adopted and the number of agenda items inscribed. I should like to emphasize that in view of the growing importance that this issue has assumed, it is perhaps now incumbent upon us to pursue this matter further in a more concerted and efficient manner than before.

You are well aware that the question of the further rationalization of the work of the First Committee has been in the forefront of our considerations during the past several years. In this context you will also recall that the practice of grouping draft resolutions into logical clusters for combined consideration has proved to be very effective. Accordingly, it will be my intention, as I indicated earlier, to continue that useful practice this year as well. From a substantive point of view, however, an even more important aspect of rationalization will be the issue of identifying broader areas of agreement as far as the adoption of draft resolutions by the

(The Chairman)

Committee is concerned. The issue, as we are all aware, while of great importance, is also a sensitive one. Nevertheless, I believe we all should make an extra effort this year to bridge the gap among divergent viewpoints whenever this proves possible.

With respect to the orderly and efficient conduct of the work of the General Assembly and its Main Committees, you will recall the many useful and well-considered measures that have been advocated, and reference to them has been made in the report of the General Committee, which was adopted by the Assembly at the commencement of this session. Accordingly, it is not my intention to take up the valuable time of the Committee to dwell on these issues. Nevertheless, I wish to emphasize that every effort will be made, including the possibility of exploring the matter within the framework of a group of friends of the Chairman, with respect to the further rationalization of the work of the First Committee.

I should also like to take this opportunity to inform you that a special meeting of the Committee in observance of Disarmament Week, will take place on Monday, 26 October. It is envisaged that observance of Disarmament Week will be marked by statements by the President of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Chairman of the First Committee. Furthermore, the meeting of the Tenth Pledging Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign will take place on Friday, 30 October 1992.

I now call upon the Secretary of the Committee, who wishes to make a statement.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to avail myself of this opportunity to draw the attention of delegations to the following points: I should like first of all to invite delegations' attention

(Mr. Kheradi)

to the fact that this year once again the General Assembly has decided to depart, during its forty-seventh session, from the rule that a quarter of the members must be present before a meeting of a Main Committee may be declared open and debate permitted to proceed. The General Assembly made that recommendation on the understanding that such a waiver did not imply any permanent change in the relevant provisions of rules 67 and 108 of the rules of procedure pertaining to the opening of meetings whereby a majority of Members must be present for any decision to be taken. Further, such a waiver would not affect the provision of the rules of procedure concerning the requirement of the presence of a majority of Members for any decision to be taken.

In accordance with the Committee's programme of work and timetable that has just been approved by the Committee, the list of speakers for the general debate on all disarmament and international security agenda items will be closed on Tuesday, 13 October 1992, at 6 p.m. A number of delegations have already indicated their intention to participate in the general debate on those items, and the Secretariat has taken note of those requests. In order to utilize fully the conference facilities available to the Committee, all delegations are kindly requested to inscribe their names on the list of speakers at their earliest convenience, if possible even today.

As you, Mr. Chairman, mentioned in your statement, members of the Committee are requested to submit draft resolutions, especially those draft resolutions which have programme budget implications or which would entail programme budget statements, as far in advance as possible in order to allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimate of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Fifth Committee of the

(Mr. Kheradi)

General Assembly. A minimum period of 48 hours should be allowed between the submission of, and the voting on, a proposal involving expenditure in order to allow the Secretary-General to prepare and present the related statement of administrative and financial implications.

(Mr. Kheradi)

That would certainly facilitate the Secretariat's task of processing the drafts in a timely manner, and, if I may venture to say so, would provide enough time to members of the Committee for consultations and, if need be, seeking the necessary instructions.

I request members of the Committee to note that draft resolutions and amendments and the names of sponsors thereof should be submitted to the Secretariat in writing to ensure accuracy and to avoid any possible misunderstanding.

Requests for the use of conference rooms for group meetings should also be submitted in writing as early as possible, so that the necessary arrangements may be made in time.

I should like furthermore to draw the attention of members of the Committee to rule 153 of the Rules of Procedure, which reads as follows:

> "No resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General. No resolution in respect of which expenditures are anticipated by the Secretary-General shall be voted by the General Assembly until the Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) has had an opportunity of stating the effect of the proposal upon the budget estimates of the United Nations."

I wish once again to draw the attention of members to General Assembly decision 34/401, particularly its provisions dealing with explanations of vote and rights of reply. I shall not go into detail in this regard, but would refer members to paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 of that decision. However, it should be kept in mind that this time, in line with time-limits for explanations of

(Mr. Kheradi)

vote and rights of reply, the General Assembly has recommended that points of order be limited to five minutes.

I should also like to draw the Committee's attention to document A/C.1/47/INF/1, which has been issued today. For the purpose of information and ready reference, this document lists all documents before the First Committee to be issued as of 12 October 1992. It will be updated and revisions will be issued as appropriate.

I would ask delegations kindly to submit the list of members of their delegations to the First Committee secretariat as soon as possible in order to facilitate the circulation of the Committee's membership list at as early a stage of the session as possible.

In addition to the copies requested for general distribution to the representatives with respect to statements of delegations, delegations are requested to provide to the conference officers a minimum of 30 copies of all prepared statements for conference-servicing purposes.

Finally, may I emphasize that everything possible will be done to ensure adherence to the time-table adopted. In the final analysis, members will need to be mindful of the fact that the due degree of flexibility will need to be exercised from time to time as necessary. This will of course depend upon the contingencies and circumstances involved, including, as you yourself have said, Mr. Chairman, the availability of the necessary conference facilities.

The CHAIRMAN: If no delegation wishes to make comments or remarks at this stage I propose to adjourn the meeting. The Committee will begin its substantive work on Monday, 12 October, at 10 a.m.

The meeting rose at 12.15 p.m.